Counterfeit Stamp Racket

2894. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a major racket in sale of counterfeit stamps and non-judicial stamp paper has been unearthed recently; and

(b) if so, the amount involved in such racket during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL) : (a) and (b) Sale of counterfeit stamps and non-judicial stamp paper is a crime committed under the relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code which is a State subject. Central Government does not maintain any record in this regard.

Branch offices of Oriental Bank of India on Rent

†2895. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to State:

(a) the number of branch offices taken on rent by the Oriental Bank of India, State-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that by neglecting the guidelines of the Reserve Bank of India, the Managers of the said bank, have decided to hire the buildings at increased rates by vacating the buildings at cheaper rates;

(c) if so, on which basis this decision has been taken; and

(d) the loss suffered by Government due to this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) State-wise position of premises taken on rent by Oriental Bank of Commerce (OBC) is given in the Statement enclosed. *{See* below)

(b) OBC have further reported that the acquisition of premises for the proposed branch and alternate premises including vacation of premises at different centres are duly approved by the Premises Committee constituted as per the detailed operational guidelines issued by Reserve Bank of India/Indian Banks' Association. These guidelines have not been violated.

(c) and (d) Not applicable.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Statement

Sr. No.	State/Union Territory	Branches 31-03-2003	Extension Counters 31-03-2003	Branches 30-06-2003	Extension Counters 30-06-2003
1.	Jammu & Kashmir	7	1	7	1
2.	Himachal Pradesh	11	1	11	1
3.	Punjab	212	21	212	21
4.	Chandigarh	7	2	7	2
5.	Haryana	114	20	114	21
6.	*N.C.T.* of Delhi	68	25	68	25
7.	Uttranchal	33	4	33	4
8.	Uttar Pradesh	197	23	197	25
9.	Bihar	4	—	4	—
10.	Jharkhand	7	2	7	2
11.	West Bengal	45	1	45	1
12.	Sikkim			1	
13.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	—	—
14.	Assam	2	—	2	—
15.	Lakshadweep	9	1	9	1
16.	Orissa				
17.	Tripura	20	1	20	1
18.	Andhra Pradesh				
19.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	—	—	—	—
20.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1	~~	1	—
21.	Daman & Diu				
22.	Goa	1	5	1	5
23.	Gujarat	31	1	32	1
24.	Karnatak	8		8	
25.	Chhattisgarh	9	2	9	2
26.	Madhya Pradesh	38	6	38	6
27.	Rajasthan	85	18	86	18
28.	Maharashtra	53	8	54	8
29.	Meghalaya	—	—	—	—
30.	Manipur				
31.	Mizoram				
32.	Nagaland	1	—	1	—
33.	Pondicherry	18		18	
34.	Tamil Nadu				
35.	Kerala	8	1	8	1
	Total	989	143	993	146